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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Executive Director

Division of Water Rights

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State Engineer/Division Director

August 24, 2016

Richard Smith, General Manager
Weber River Water Users Association
138 West 1300 North
Sunset, Utah 84015-2918

Dear Rick:

I have received your August 8 letter regarding the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Grant on the Weber River. I appreciate the time and effort you and your organization have put forth in sponsoring this grant. Water measurement is a critical component in efficiently and equitably managing water in Utah. I am encouraged that water users on the Weber River are taking advantage of opportunities to elevate water measurement and electronic reporting to facilitate distribution and increased transparency. I believe proactive measures to implement technology will save users on the Weber River the expense of increasing manual collection, litigation, and the inefficiency of distrust which will become apparent as competition for water continues to increase. I am disappointed water users on East Canyon Creek are resisting moving forward with the initiative at present but understand their reluctance to open themselves to greater scrutiny when all water users on the system are not anticipated to have the same level of transparency in the foreseeable future. We will continue to develop and share a plan with the water users which focuses on the staged implementation of real-time reporting of all diversions on the system.

As you know, the current project contemplates installing telemetry on river measurements as well as on various diversions. The East Canyon diversion telemetry – besides helping to properly account for delivery of storage water – was intended to serve as a “proof of concept” before expanding the telemetry network to other diversions on the river system. A similar effort is also ongoing near Oakley where the telemetry is being installed on diversions from the river in that area. In our experience, telemetry on diversions and transparently providing that data to all water users as it is collected has resulted in better water management and has reduced conflict among water users at the many locations where it has been implemented throughout the state. I believe the Weber River System would be well-served by moving forward with adoption of a real time reporting system as quickly as feasible.

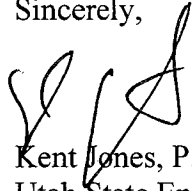
Given that it appears unlikely the East Canyon Creek water users are ready at this time to proceed with automation of their diversion reporting and monies remain available under the grant, I can support, instead, adding a measurement on East Canyon Creek just above its confluence with the Weber River as you have suggested. Presuming the grant administrators are amenable, I support modifying the current grant to enable grant money currently allocated for East Canyon telemetry to be used for the East Canyon Creek measurement. We are willing to provide a cost-match in the form of in-kind labor to install the electronic



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equipment just as we would have with the diversion automation. We will continue to work with East Canyon water users and hope some of the six proposed measurement stations may be installed as grant money is available.

Sincerely,

 *BOND CLAYTON FOR*
Kent Jones, P.E.
Utah State Engineer

cc:

Cole Panter
Jay Henrie